



FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF  
THE CHAIRMAN

January 12, 2001

The Honorable Albert Gore, Jr.  
The White House  
1600 Pennsylvania Ave.  
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Mr. Vice President,

Today I tendered to President Clinton my resignation as Chairman of the Federal Communications Commission effective January 19, 2001. I did so with great pride in the accomplishments of the Commission during my tenure and with deep gratitude to you for affording me the opportunity to serve the American public.

I feel very privileged that I was able to serve as Chairman of the FCC at a time when communications technologies are so dramatically changing the way the American people live, work, and learn. From the moment you swore me in in 1997, I have devoted my energies to meeting the two principal challenges of the digital age. The first challenge is to fight for a competitive marketplace in which monopoly is ended, innovation and entrepreneurship are cherished, and consumers have competitive choice. The second challenge is to make sure that the benefits of the Information Age reach all Americans – from the business districts to the barrios; from those with every advantage to those with disabilities; from the young to the old; from suburban enclaves to the rural heartland.

I have worked to build on the success that you and President Clinton had in passing the Telecommunications Act of 1996. The FCC successfully defended the Act against all manner of legal challenges and proceeded to implement it in a pro-competitive way. Our actions have unleashed unprecedented new investment and opportunity and have become models for the rest of the world.

The Honorable Albert Gore, Jr.

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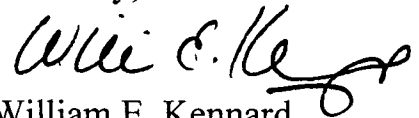
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At the same time, I have fought hard to bridge the Digital Divide and to ensure that the benefits of the digital age reach all Americans, from extending access to people with disabilities to committing to minority employment and opportunity. And I am enormously proud of the success of the E-rate program, which, as you well know, connected 95% of our Nation's schools and over one million classrooms to the Internet. This is a magnificent achievement that will benefit America's schoolchildren for decades to come, and I am extremely grateful that your vision and persistence made it happen.

Throughout my tenure, the leadership and courage that you and President Clinton have shown has truly inspired me. It has given me strength to fight hard for the interests of the American people every single day.

For the rest of my life, I will be proud to say that I served as an appointee of the Clinton-Gore administration. Thank you for the opportunity to serve.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "William E. Kennard", with a stylized flourish at the end.

William E. Kennard  
Chairman

cc: Charles Burson, Chief of Staff  
David Beier, Chief Domestic Policy Advisor